

disagree with the Commission's interpretation of section 706 of the Act which requires the agency to encourage the deployment of high-speed Internet access and other advanced communications services to rural Minnesota. In my view, inaction by the FCC in removing barriers to the deployment of advanced telecommunications services can be overcome through the enactment of incremental proposals that complement marketplace solutions.

More specifically, I am proud to be a cosponsor of the "Universal Service Support Act" introduced by Senator CONRAD BURNS and endorsed by the National Telephone Cooperative Association. This legislation will lift the regulatory caps imposed upon the Universal Service Fund that limit the amount of support that can be directed to rural telephone companies that serve high-cost areas of our state. These regulatory caps are inconsistent with the de-regulatory framework established by the 1996 Act and an unnecessary barrier to allowing further the further deployment of advanced telecommunications services in rural communities.

I believe that we can also prevent rural communities from becoming technology "have nots" through repeal of the federal telephone excise tax. The 3 percent telephone excise tax was first established to fund the Spanish-American War of 1898 but has since become an obstacle to community investment in technology. I am proud to be a cosponsor of legislation to repeal this "Tax on Talking" and save taxpayers billions annually.

There is no single solution to closing the digital divide and I also support S. 2572, the "Facilitating Access to Speedy Transmission for Networks, E-commerce and Telecommunications Act," also known as the "FASTNET Act." This legislation will relieve mid-size telephone companies of excessive reporting requirements that are a barrier to additional company investment in Internet services that would serve rural communities. This legislation was passed unanimously by the House of Representatives and I hope that it will be considered by the Senate soon. Congress should also consider proposals that will authorize the Rural Utilities Service to provide low-interest loans to companies that are deploying broadband technology, as well as legislation that will analyze the feasibility of allowing low power television stations to provide data services to rural areas.

As we embark on the 21st Century, it is vital that Minnesota's high-tech businesses serving rural areas are not left behind in our new e-commerce economy. During this session of Congress, I was an early and strong supporter of the enactment of "E-SIGN," electronic signature legislation that will facilitate the growth of electronic commerce into rural Minnesota. This

new law grants legal effect to electronic online electronic signatures that will enhance the ability of rural companies to complete business transactions and compete in our emerging digital economy. Rather than spend precious time and resources completing paper transactions, the E-SIGN Act will also allow consumers to pay bills, trade securities, and shop online for a home mortgage and complete the deal by striking a few keys on their computer.

Finally, I am proud to have worked with my colleagues on the Senate Banking Committee to pass the "Launching Our Communities Access to Local Television Act of 2000." The LOCAL TV Act would establish a \$1.25 billion loan guarantee program to facilitate access to local television programming in rural Minnesota communities. I am very pleased that the Senate unanimously passed my amendment that will ensure that the National Cooperative Finance Cooperation is considered an eligible lender under the proposed loan guarantee program. The CFC is among several private sector lenders which have substantial experience providing multimillion loans in a cooperative environment and which have a track record of projects of this size in rural areas. I am confident that this legislation will be signed into law later this month.

I am proud to have worked with consumers and Minnesota's rural telecommunications companies on these issues and other initiatives that will help our state and country to develop a strong rural telecommunications policy.

THE YUGOSLAVIAN ELECTIONS

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, ten years ago this October, a wall came down in Eastern Europe which marked a renaissance for democracy in that region of the world. I believe we all remember the dramatic pictures from Berlin, with crowds in celebration, and Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" booming in the background. On the 10th Anniversary of that celebration, I believe we have seen that promise of democracy spread to one of the last tyrannies in Europe. Last Thursday, we bore witness to similarly dramatic images of the Serbian people united in the cause of freedom.

Earlier in the week, I think we all realized something dramatic had happened in Serbia. I joined with my friend and colleague, the junior Senator from Ohio to introduce a resolution commending the People of Yugoslavia for the brave step they took in their elections. It showed the kind of courage that a people must demonstrate if they are truly determined to establish the rule of law and the rule of the people.

We woke up to the wonderful news that the whole world acknowledges the

new Yugoslav President, Vojislav Kostunica. As in the Philippines, Indonesia, Romania and even our nation, the will of an aroused people, determined to secure their freedom, proved irresistible. We will not soon forget the sight of ordinary men and women storming the Yugoslav parliament—the people's house—to restore that symbol of democracy to its rightful owners.

While we congratulate and appreciate these dramatic developments in Serbia, it is important to reflect a little on our own democracy. This Presidential election marks the 54th time in our nation's history that executive power will change hands peacefully, and according to the will of the people. In many respects, the amazing success of our industry, our science and even our military might all rests on this simple fact. Without a foundation of freedom, Americans could never have achieved the boundless success we have known. We owe a great debt to men and women who founded our nation for their foresight and their sacrifice.

The Balkans are a land of tragic history. It provided the spark for the First World War, and has been in turmoil ever since. I am reminded that on the eve of the start of World War I, the British Foreign Minister looked out his window upon a worker putting out the street lights, and remarked:

The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime.

For the first time in a very long time, the lamps of European freedom are lit across the entire continent. It is a vindication of the sacrifice of two generations of Americans who risked their lives in war. It is a vindication of this nation's principles, and most of all, it is a vindication of the aspirations of the Yugoslavian people. I hope that this body, when we return next year, will act quickly and generously to welcome Serbia back to the community of nations. I also hope that we will take all necessary steps to secure a lasting peace in the Balkans. I believe it is important that we place a particular focus on the children of this region. Like so many other conflicts, the wounds of the Balkans will take time to heal. Our best hope for that healing comes from the children. I look forward to working with my colleagues so that our best hopes might be realized.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY'S POSITION ON THE PAIN RELIEF PROMOTION ACT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, on October 4, 2000, I did not correctly state the American Cancer Society's position on S. 1272, when I stated that they "... strongly opposed ..." the Pain Relief Promotion Act." Their actual position, taken directly from their recent statement on the legislation, is as follows:

... The American Cancer Society appreciates the commitment shown by the sponsors of the legislation to address these issues, but unfortunately is unable to support this legislation as written. . . . Careful analysis of the House-passed measure and a substitute version of the Senate bill . . . have serious potential to exacerbate the current problem of under treatment of pain. While there are provisions to proactively address pain and symptom management, the Society maintains that any benefit from such provisions would not outweigh the potential threat posed by the changes to CSA. Furthermore, neither section of the bill comprehensively addresses the needs of providers, patients, and families for ongoing support and education to counter the current problem of under-treatment of pain—a problem that often leads to requests for physician-assisted suicide. . . . Under the Act, all physicians and particularly physicians who care for those with terminal illnesses will be made especially vulnerable to having their pain and symptom management treatment decisions questioned by law enforcement officials not qualified to judge medical decision-making. This can result in unnecessary investigation, and further disincentives to aggressively treat pain.

Unfortunately, 'intent' cannot be easily determined, particularly in the area of medicine where effective dosage levels for patients may deviate significantly from the norm. The question of deciding intent should remain in the hands of those properly trained to make such decisions—the medical community and state medical boards. The Pain Relief Promotion Act seeks to hold harmless any physician who treats a patient's pain even if death occurs, and the measure attempts to create a 'safe harbor' provision in an effort to shield physicians whose use of federally-controlled drugs unintentionally hasten or cause death. However, this provision does not change the fact that the DEA would now explicitly be charged with overseeing the medical use of controlled substances, resulting in a negative impact on cancer pain treatment. . . .

The American Cancer Society statement concluded with the following observation:

The American Cancer Society has engaged in a deliberative process to evaluate the impact of the Pain Relief Promotion Act on our Quality of Life goals for all people living with cancer. Its analysis included a review of existing Society policies on pain and symptom management and opposition to physician assisted suicide. We have concluded that as written, the Pain Relief Promotion Act would ban the use of federally controlled substances for physician-assisted suicide at the expense of controlling pain and advancing symptom management. These issues are both critically important, but are separate issues. While the Society strongly opposes all patient deaths stemming from assisted suicides, we must give heavier weight to the more than 1500 individuals who die of cancer every day in this country—more than half of whom die in pain unnecessarily. Moreover, the American Cancer Society believes that the best approach to help cancer patients and reduce and prevent assisted suicide is through the adoption of proactive policies and the provision of resources to prevent and ameliorate pain and suffering in people with cancer, especially for those at the end-of-life.

I appreciate this opportunity to clarify the position of the American Cancer Society on S. 1272.

THE WILDLIFE AND SPORT FISH RESTORATION PROGRAMS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2000.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the Environment and Public Works Committee's substitute to H.R. 3671, the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000.

Chairman YOUNG and others did a tremendous amount of investigative and legislative work to get us to this point, and I want to thank them for all of their efforts. Their original bill passed the House with tremendous bipartisan approval, garnering just two "no" votes.

Senator CRAPO and I took the House bill and strengthened it by providing a sensible level for grants for projects that affect more than one state and strengthening the provision to ensure states use a reasonable portion of the Pittman-Robertson money to provide hunter education programs. It was introduced as S. 2609 and garnered 14 cosponsors.

Senators SMITH, CRAPO, BAUCUS, and BOXER worked hard on Senate legislation that everyone can agree on. I appreciate their dedication to that work, and we have produced an excellent product that will bring accountability to a program that represents one-third of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's budget, ensure the hunting and fishing community that the money they pay in excise taxes is being used for its intended purpose, and that the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson programs will continue to be this nation's premier wildlife and fisheries conservation programs.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support this substitute, and I encourage the President of the United States to sign this important piece of legislation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

KANSAN OLYMPIANS

• Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the athletes from Kansas who participated in the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia. Each of these athletes contributed in his or her own way to the success of the American Team. It is my pleasure to recognize the following athletes from Kansas for their efforts in the Olympic Games: Maurice Greene, Nathan Leeper, Passion Richardson, Christie Ambrosi, Sarah Noriega, Tara Nott, and Melvin Douglas.

Each of these athletes deserves to be commended on their perseverance and dedication to their respective sports. The devotion of these athletes has been rewarded with the opportunity to represent the United States as Olympic Athletes. Not only have these athletes represented America, but they have

also made the citizens of their home State of Kansas proud.

The spirit of these athletes is encouraging and is to be applauded. America's team could not have finished on top without the help of these special Kansans. Every four years the world comes together in this ultimate show of athleticism. These Kansan athletes will be forever a part of this honorable tradition. It gives me great pleasure to recognize the accomplishments of these athletes.

Maurice Greene maintained his role as the fastest man on Earth by winning the Men's 100 meter race. He also helped the 4x100 relay team run their way to another gold medal for the American Team.

Nathan Leeper rose to high aspirations in the high jump competition. After leaving the sport for a short time, Nathan made the ultimate comeback as a member of this Olympic Team.

Passion Richardson helped the women's 4x100m Relay team run their way out of the rounds into the finals. This competition was Passion's Olympic debut and her participation in this event is the epitome of teamwork and dedication.

Christie Ambrosi helped the women's softball team grab the gold medal for America. Her hard work as an outfielder and strong hitting skills brought the team home with gold medals along with their gloves.

As a member of the Women's volleyball team, Sarah Noriega rose beyond the expectations. Sarah helped launch the team into the medal round, proving that the team has a great future ahead.

Tara Nott made Olympic history as the first woman to go home with gold from a Women's Olympic Weightlifting competition. Christie had no problem carrying her gold medal home to Kansas.

Melvin Douglas is no stranger to the Olympic games, as the Sydney competition as his second Olympic appearance. His perseverance in the sport has proven that great athletes can come at any age.

Again, Mr. President, I congratulate these Kansas Athletes on their outstanding accomplishments. All of these athletes have made Kansas and United States of America very proud. •

RECOGNITION OF CLIFFORD PIERCE MIDDLE SCHOOL IN MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA, WINNER OF THE PRESTIGIOUS BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS AWARD

• Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise proudly today to congratulate Clifford Pierce Middle School in Merrillville, Indiana for its selection by the U.S. Secretary of Education as one of the nation's outstanding Blue Ribbon Schools. Clifford Pierce Middle School